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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

March 31, 1971

SUBJECT: Symington Subcommittee: Plans of Staff Members

Jim Lowenstein called me this evening to ask my intervention to expedite his security clearance. Senator Symington wishes him and Moose to take a trip about 15 April, and wants his security clearance accomplished by then; otherwise, said Symington, he will be talking to Secretary Laird and taking the matter up on the Floor. I called Mr. French and passed the word to him, taking the position on behalf of State that we strongly supported getting the clearance by then in order to obviate any unnecessary problems, and offered to have one of the Department's principals call Defense if that was necessary. Mr. French said he didn't think it would be.

Mr. Lowenstein said that their travel plans remain indefinite because there are a number of thrusts of interest within the Subcommittee and it is difficult to see in what direction the decision will finally be taken when Symington returns from his trip to Europe on April 12. He is going over with a group from JCAE.

Lowenstein said he and Moose are applying for visas for most of the countries in the Far East in order to be set up. He said if the thrust of the Subcommittee's interest is military assistance, they will probably focus primarily on Cambodia and Korea. If the Subcommittee's primary interest is long-term commitments in the Far East, Japan will be of greatest importance; and if it is to be

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a follow-up on the hearings of last year, Laos and Formosa would be their chief targets. Symington may also get some ideas while in Europe, so they just really don't know yet.

Lowenstein made no specific reference to the question of intelligence facilities or operations.

PM/JW: Joseph Wolf

cc: PM - Mr. Spiers
Mr. Pickering
EA - Mr. Green
H - Mr. Abshire
Mr. Symmes
DOD - Mr. French
CIA - Mr. Maury
NSA - Mr. Banner

WH - Mr. Lehman